

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Shae does his homework and Aja sits next to him, bored. Gustav Holst plays in the air, Shae looks very content.

AJA

Can we eat? You have food in the house?

Shae responds without lifting his head--

SHAE

Sure, go check the pantry.

Aja gets up and opens the pantry door slowly. A light shines from within-- it is a whole room dedicated to food. Aja hugs the soup cans and variety of pasta boxes. She freaks out at the canned artichoke hearts and selection of nuts.

AJA

What do you feel like having!?

SHAE O.S.

Whatever you want.

Aja comes out with a huge smile and a box of animal shaped mac n cheese. Shae stands up shaking his head and scowls.

AJA

No?

SHAE

I will not eat artificial powder that's going to stick to my insides.

AJA

Why do you have it then?

SHAE

It was my mom's shopping. I like the shapes to make my own. Here, let's make something worthwhile.

Shae goes to the fridge and takes out a few things-- Parmesan, kielbasa, tomatoes, olive oil, pine nuts, and a bunch of kale.

He nods Aja to bring the pasta over and he begins to wash and cut up the meat. Aja looks super excited and grabs a cutting board for vegetables.

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Shae and Aja sit with their feet up watching 'Cupcake Wars' on the television. Aja's plate of pasta is clean gone while Shae's left some remnants of what we see is a delicious healthy meal.

SHAE

They're going to be cut this round, he touched it with his hand; once you do that, you are done for.

AJA

Yeah, well they're uniforms are so horrendous they should have never even been considered.

We hear Nora enter the driveway. Shae runs their plates to the sink and tries to straighten Aja's presentation up a bit for 'baby-sitter material.'

NORA O.S.

Shae?

Shae runs with Aja to the front door.

SHAE

Hi, Mom... I have someone I want you to meet; this is Aja. She's going to be my new baby-sitter if that's alright.

NORA

You-- I'm sorry, what? Where's Mildred?

SHAE

She left. Mildred didn't want the job anymore, so I gave it to Aja.

NORA

Oh, is that right?

Nora raises her eyebrows, skeptical. She puts out her hand and smiles at Aja.

NORA (CONT'D)

Hi Aja, I'm Nora... I'm sorry, Shae, but what exactly happened today?

SHAE

Well first of all, Mildred didn't really want to be around me, she's forgotten about me twice now, plus she was infecting me with second hand lung cancer, I don't know how you approve of that woman... but Aja needs the job, she has 20/20 vision, doesn't smoke when she cooks, nor in general, and has a million times more energy... She's more suitable for it, I want her to stick around.

NORA

Shae, this is--

SHAE

Mom, please. This is all I ask for.

Nora looks at her son's face and how eager it is. She looks at the lively scenery in her living room. He's having a much better time than last night, Nora's face softens.

NORA

Why don't you come with me into the dining room and we can chat a bit ourselves, Aja.

Aja looks back at Shae nervous; he gives her the thumbs up and a hand wave that says, 'you'll be fine.'

INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING

Aja and Nora go over the routine in the dining room. Shae stands beside the hallway listening intently.

NORA

So what type of job experience do you have, Aja?

Aja thinks quickly, calm and collected she smiles.

AJA

I um-- I'm used to taking care of people. I've taken care of the elderly all my life. People with diabetes, obesity, drug use recovery, possible dementia... I need a change.

Nora smiles.

NORA

You must be patient. I work in the ER at the hospital, older folks can be hard work; change can be difficult for them.

AJA

Oh, I know it... but I like change. Your son seems like he'd be a great transition for me. He's very mature for his age.

NORA

He is. He seems to like you, we've had a hard time keeping someone for the job so, I would like to try this out... Just give me a few of your references, long as they're check out, we're good here.

Soon as Nora says 'references' Aja tenses up. She keeps collected and nods her head reassuringly.

AJA

Alright yeah, you got it. My references are very good. You want me to bring a resume tomorrow?

NORA

You can just write a few here and I'll check them tonight.

AJA

Oh. Great! Yeah, that's great. Fast. Ehem. Simple.

Nora gives Aja a notepad and pen. Aja writes down the name 'Consuela' with a small smile.

NORA

Exactly. And you drive, yes?

AJA

Mhmm.

NORA

Terrific. Think we're all set for now, why don't you come back at 7:30AM to start and you can drive the Prius.

AJA

Okay, sounds good to me! Here you go...

Aja's finished her messy writing of three references. Nora takes off her glasses trying to read it clearly.

AJA (CONT'D)

Thank you, Nora.

Nora looks up from the paper and smiles at Aja's genuine expression. They stand and Shae runs up the stairs to his room. Nora shows Aja out and Aja scurries down the sidewalk with a smile.

EXT. / INT. MADONNA INN - EVENING

Aja runs into the motel lobby to Consuela.

AJA

I did it! But I need your help....
I need you to um, extend the truth
for me.

CONSUELA

Extend?

AJA

Um yeah. So I got a great
babysitting gig, but I've never
technically babysat before. I mean
my Mom is--

CONSUELA

Ooh ya, you'll be a good
babysitter alright.

AJA

Thanks Suela! But yeah, so the
mother is going call and you've
gotta have some kids.

Consuela looks skeptical, but nods.

CONSUELA

I can do that. I would make a great
mother.

AJA

Oh, I know you would, thank you,
thank you! Oh hold up, I have to
collect two more--

A man in a chef's hat walks by and into the kitchen. Aja does a double-take and runs in his direction.

AJA (CONT'D)

Bobby! I need a favor, you owe me one.

CONVENIENT STORE - EVENING

The cashier, WILLY(66) gets a phone call while Aja stands next to him, listening as closely as she can. She instructs him on what to say as Nora asks him questions. He goes off on his own rant though--

WILLY

She's terrific. Tough cookie and kind as they come. Yep, very punctual, tidy, good cook--

AJA

(light whisper)

I am not a good cook, Willy!

Aja mouths 'stop,' repeatedly as Willy continues to extend the truth too far. She hugs him once he is finished and she buys some groceries.